

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
December 18, 2015



**Season's Greetings from
America's Sweetest Town**

**The City of Clewiston City
Commission and Staff Wish
Everyone a Joyous Holiday Season**

Congratulations to City of Clewiston's 2015 Outstanding Employees of the Year...Miguel Sanchez, Jay Ensminger, Curtis Clay, Geraldine Eaton - City-Wide Employee of the Year, and Danny Williams – Director of the Year.

Dates to Remember

December 21, 2015 – City Commission Meeting

December 24-25, 2015 – Christmas Holiday – City offices will be closed.

January 1, 2016 – New Year Holiday – City offices will be closed.

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- All of the buildings (14) at GreenTree West are now under construction. Some are just starting with the slab and some already have their roof trusses in place;
- There are four (4) new single family homes in progress right now, the most we've seen in quite a while! They are located at 403 West Avenida del Rio, 745 East Concordia, 726 & 717 Harvest Lane;
- 601 West Alverdez has been purchased by Lakeside Detox LLC. They have a demolition permit to remove some interior rooms and hallways;
- After many years of emptiness (since late 90's!), 412 East Ventura, a two-story apartment building, is almost ready to be occupied again.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The pre-kindergarten program continues to be offered to approximately 95 children in 4 daycares here in Clewiston. Another daycare contacted us and asked if their children could be a part of the program. With that we will have over 100 children in the early reading and computer literacy program.
- ABCmouse is free at your library!!! Bring your children to the library and take advantage of this opportunity which you would have to pay for if you do it individually.
- This library has been selected as one of 11 libraries in Florida to host a Career Online High School. Scholarships will be given to qualifying candidates to attend this school. Ask for more information at the library.
- On January 4, 2016 the library will join several community organizations to host a job fair from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Employers will include US Sugar, First Bank, Seacoast Bank, Walmart, and several others.
- On Thursday, Santa paid a visit to the Library for the 3rd Annual Holiday Reading and Giveaway.
- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Happy holidays everyone!!

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news by signing up on Constant Contact. Go to the golf link on the City of Clewiston website and sign up on Constant Contact. You will be automatically put on the golf course e-mail.
- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Men's Club Championship is Saturday, December 19, 2015. Sign up is in the golf shop. 10am start, 18 holes. There is a net and gross division. The golf course will be open for regular play.
- Christmas is soon, so get your golfer gifts from the golf shop. We are stocking up our shop for Christmas and the season.
- Season is here. We suggest making tee times here at the golf course.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Shoplifting and resultant Trespass violations are rampant. We are working with the retailers to make every attempt to suppress some of this.
- I hope everyone will take the time to check out the Clewiston Police Department's Facebook page. Loretta Melanson is doing a great job, often updating it multiple times daily.
- Another unruly patient at a local doctor's office required our intervention this week. The suspect who was threatening harm to the employees was arrested and transferred to the county jail.
- Patrol Officers caught two young men street racing on Highway 27. Both were arrested and their respective vehicles towed and impounded for 30 days.

- The annual Toys for Tots Program is once again a huge success. We are awaiting Salvation Army's transport truck next week. However, you still have time to donate an unwrapped toy for a needy child.
- A young driver backed her car into the canal on West Del Rio Monday afternoon. Both occupants were trapped inside. Detective Steven Chamberlain dove into the water and was able to free mother and daughter. Everyone escaped serious injury. WELL DONE DETECTIVE CHAMBERLAIN!
- Please be careful while celebrating the Season. Patrol units are coming in contact with ever increasing numbers of intoxicated pedestrians. We are making a great effort to either find them a way home, or transport them home ourselves in some cases. HOWEVER, no such grace will be afforded those driving under the influence. We have a legal, moral, and ethical obligation to strictly enforce DUI. Have a safe and happy holiday!
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1228** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 606** Complaints Investigated
 - 26** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 35** Arrests Made
 - 11** City Ordinance / Code Cases
 - 2** Rental Inspections
 - 69** Merchant Escorts
 - 11** Alarms Responded To
 - 5** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

Florida Department of Transportation is nearing completion of the US Highway 27 rebuild. Until the project is complete, the traffic lights are under contract and the City of Clewiston does not have control. **If you have a complaint concerning traffic lights please call Florida DOT at 850-410-5600.**

- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.